

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for managing shipment of a product through the use of the Internet for automated communicating, essentially in real time, of packing slip information and exceptions therefrom, if any, regarding a product shipment, said method comprising:

inputting into a server packing slip data for a product to be shipped;  
storing said packing slip data in said server;  
comparing said stored packing slip data relative to respective supplier data stored in a database;

updating said stored packing slip data based on said comparison;  
printing a packing slip based on said updated packing slip data from said server;

attaching said printed packing slip to the product to be shipped;  
verifying said printed packing slip relative to product actually shipped to a point of shipment receipt; and

based on the results of said verifying step, inputting exceptions and/or notations into said server at the point of shipment receipt in connection with product actually shipped to said point of receipt; and

communicating without human intervention said exceptions and/or notations from said point of receipt to said server for automated processing therein, said automated processing configured to determine whether or not a modified product shipment is needed for correcting any said exceptions.

2. **(Original)** The method recited in claim 1 wherein said printed packing slip includes bar-coded information.

3. **(Original)** The method recited in claim 2 wherein the verifying step comprises retrieving data from the packing slip by scanning the bar-coded packing slip.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method recited in claim 3, further comprising:

- comparing said exceptions and/or notations relative to supplier data stored in said database;
- updating said database ~~on said server with~~ said exceptions and/or notations;
- printing a new bar-coded packing slip based on said exceptions and/or notations;
- attaching said printed new bar-coded packing slip to a modified product to be shipped, wherein the modified product to be shipped is configured to match said printed new bar-coded packing slip;
- shipping and delivering the modified product;
- verifying said printed new bar-coded packing slip to the modified shipped product; and
- inputting any new exceptions and notations onto said server.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 4 further comprising:

- inputting ~~said packing slip information~~ into a purchaser inventory system; and
- comparing said packing slip data to a purchase order.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-readable medium encoded with computer program code for managing shipment of a product through the use of the Internet for automated communicating, essentially in real time, of packing slip information and exceptions therefrom, if any, regarding a product shipment, the program code causing a computer to execute a method comprising:

- inputting into a server packing slip data for a product to be shipped;
- storing said packing slip data in said server;
- comparing said stored packing slip data relative to respective supplier data stored in a database;

updating said stored packing slip data based on said comparison;  
printing a packing slip based on said updated packing slip data  
from said server;

attaching said printed packing slip to the product to be shipped;  
verifying said printed packing slip relative to product actually  
shipped to a point of shipment receipt; and

based on the results of said verifying step, inputting exceptions  
and/or notations into said server at the point of shipment receipt in connection  
with product actually shipped to said point of receipt; and

communicating without human intervention said exceptions and/or  
notations from said point of receipt to said server for automated processing  
therein, said automated processing configured to determine whether or not a  
modified product shipment is needed for correcting any said exceptions.

7. **(Original)** The computer-readable medium of claim 6 wherein said  
printed packing slip further includes bar-coded information.

8. **(Original)** The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the  
verifying step comprises retrieving data from the packing slip by scanning the  
bar-coded packing slip.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-readable medium of claim 8  
further comprising:

comparing said exceptions and/or notations relative to supplier data  
stored in said database;

updating said database ~~on said server~~ with said exceptions and/or  
notations;

printing a new bar-coded packing slip based on said exceptions  
and/or notations;

attaching said printed new bar-coded packing slip to a modified product to be shipped, wherein the modified product to be shipped is configured to match said printed new bar-coded packing slip;

shipping and delivering the modified product;

verifying said printed new bar-coded packing slip to the modified shipped product; and

inputting any new exceptions and notations onto said server.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-readable medium of claim 9 further comprising:

inputting ~~said~~ packing slip information into a purchaser inventory system; and

comparing said packing slip data to a purchase order.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A web-enabled system for managing shipment of a product, the system comprising:

a module configured to provide a web page including at least a data field to be filled by the supplier with packing slip data indicative of a product to be shipped;

a module configured to store said packing slip data on a server;

a database configured to store inventory data;

a module configured to compare said stored packing slip data relative to said inventory data stored in said database;

a module configured to update said stored packing slip data based on said comparison;

a module configured to print a packing slip based on said updated packing slip data from said server, wherein said printed packing slip is attached to the product to be shipped and further wherein said printed packing slip is verified relative to product actually shipped to a point of shipment receipt; and

~~attaching said printed packing slip to the product to be shipped;~~

~~verifying said printed packing slip relative to product actually shipped; and~~

a module configured to ~~input exceptions and/or notations into said server~~communicate without human intervention said exceptions and/or notations from said point of receipt to said server for automated processing therein, said automated processing configured to determine whether or not a modified product shipment is needed for correcting any said exceptions.

12. **(Original)** The system of claim 11 wherein said printed packing slip further includes bar-coded information.

13. **(Original)** The system of claim 12 wherein the verifying step comprises retrieving data from the packing slip by scanning the bar-coded packing slip.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 13 further comprising:  
a module configured to compare said exceptions and/or notations relative to supplier data stored in said database;

a module configured to update said database on said server with said exceptions and/or notations;

a module configured to print a new bar-coded packing slip based on said exceptions and/or notations, wherein said printed new bar-coded packing slip is attached to a modified product to be shipped, and further wherein said modified product to be shipped is configured to match said printed new bar-coded packing slip; and

~~attaching said printed new bar-coded packing slip to a modified product to be shipped;~~

~~shipping and delivering the modified product;~~

~~verifying said printed new bar-coded packing slip to the modified shipped product; and~~

a module configured to ~~input~~communicate without human intervention any new exceptions and notations onto said server.

15. **(Original)** The system of claim 14 further comprising:

a module configured to input said packing slip information into a purchaser inventory system; and

a module configured to compare said packing slip data to a purchase order.